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COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION OF THEMATIC ISSUES RELATING TO THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Written statement* submitted by North-South XXI, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement, which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[12 July 2000]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, as received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

Migrant workers and their families in the countries of the North, and also nationals originating from countries of the South, are regularly the victims of racial discrimination in the form of physical and verbal violence, refusal to sell to them or give them jobs, discrimination in promotion, etc.

At the same time, the political authorities of the North take various kinds of action to promote civil and political rights in all the countries of the South (missions of inquiry, election monitoring, democratic conditionality clauses inserted in international agreements, etc.) in the name of some universal mission to promote human rights.

The industrial Powers of the North are trying to impose on the countries of the South standards they are unable to enforce at home for people (foreigners or nationals) living on their territories.

This contradiction can only be resolved by carrying out an assessment of the actual status of migrant workers in the North, and of nationals originating from the South who are living in the developed countries, both in Europe and in the United States.

The fact that xenophobia is sometimes of an individual, hidden nature, though still fraught with serious psychological and social consequences, should not prevent the Sub-Commission from intervening in the practices of the countries of the North, which have shown themselves, in the last few decades, incapable of suppressing it.

The policy of the authorities of the countries of the North, comprising the necessary changes in their societies through concrete educational and social measures, is a test of their real desire to establish a new relationship with the South in which xenophobia and racial discrimination play no part.

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